



Auroville International

Dr. Jayanti Ravi, Secretary of the Auroville Foundation
Members of the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation
Auroville Foundation Bhavan
Auroville

January 15, 2022

Dear Dr. Ravi,
Dear members of the Governing Board,

The AVI Board has been elected by representatives of Auroville International in 37 countries around the world and we would like to praise the Indian Government for its long-standing and courageous support for the community of Auroville. For while Auroville's ideal of realizing a living human unity is international in scope, India remains its spiritual home.

We appreciate the new energy and financial commitment shown by the Governing Board, the Secretary and the Indian Government for the development of Auroville. This is particularly welcome in the year when we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of Sri Aurobindo's birth.

Auroville is increasingly seen by the world as a beacon of excellence in many areas of work, including its work with the local villages, environmental restoration and appropriate technology for a sustainable future.

Auroville has received international recognition for its outstanding work and has been supported since its inception by UNESCO, with five resolutions of its General Assembly. They were calling the member states to support and take part in the unfolding of Auroville's development, based on ideals and principles which are seen as resonating with UNESCO's own values.

Auroville has received funding from various governmental and non-governmental organizations around the world for a variety of projects. The Indian Government has played a vital role in supporting these projects, for which the members of Auroville International are deeply grateful. Auroville has also received considerable funding from AVI members themselves, especially for land purchase, as well as significant emergency financial support during the COVID crisis.

We are very glad to learn about Dr Ravi's support for the Dreamweaving process, as introduced by a group of dedicated Aurovilians with the assistance of highly respected B.V. Doshi and members of the Vastu Shilpa Foundation. It is an important initiative to reconcile differing views on town-planning issues in the community and to collectively find ways towards speeding up town development. AVI has offered all its support for this process which is promising to bring harmony to the Auroville community and a clear vision on next steps to be taken.

The Governing Board wishes Auroville to develop and reach the aim of becoming a "universal city" of 50,000 people from countries around the globe. Auroville International has the same goals and aspirations. That is why our registered worldwide organisation has, over nearly four decades, invited people from all over the world to come and join the Auroville experiment and to commit their lives to the ideals expressed by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. It is our aim and intense wish to continue these invitations, especially to youth from all over the world who are desperately looking for a new vision and new values guiding mankind to peaceful ways of human unity and international understanding.

However, there is a matter which is of grave concern to us and to the community itself, affecting the very future of the project which you have done so much to support. It is the security of residency which non-Indian members of the community must be assured of in order to be able to live in Auroville.

We have learned about a new rule for the admission of non-Indian nationals to Auroville, which demands the support for the Master Plan. Although the Master Plan is widely accepted as a framework, its scope is currently part of the decision-making process of the Residents' Assembly. The collective processes to move forward with the city planning could be hampered by additional individual visa requirements, and create uncertainty for people who need to extend their visa. We are very concerned that this new rule will undermine harmony and balance within the Auroville community and counteract all the endeavours to increase the population of Auroville.

We therefore ask you to give this matter your greatest attention to provide our members around the world the reassurance that they will be treated with equality, in the spirit of Sri Aurobindo's and The Mother's ideals of Human Unity, which are at the very core of Auroville's existence. Or we can suggest that this new clause is submitted to the Residents' Assembly, which is statutorily the decision-making body of Auroville, for their agreement. Fundamentally it is up to the Aurovilians to take this responsibility.

The Mother invited "men and women of all countries... above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities" to come to Auroville, and to make a full and sincere commitment to the community and to living its ideals for the rest of their lives. Let us remember that the condition She gave was "to be a willing servitor of the Divine Consciousness". We would be deeply grateful if you could meet our concern on this delicate matter.

In Mother's Grace and Love,

Yours faithfully



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On behalf of members of the AVI Board.

Representing:

Auroville International Argentina
Auroville International Australia
Auroville International Belgium
Auroville International Brazil
Auroville International Canada
Auroville International Croatia
Auroville International Denmark
Auroville International France
Auroville International Germany
Auroville International Greece
Auroville International Haiti
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